

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 PA-02
OES-09 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W
-----065706 030258Z /14

P 030133Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 04049

FOR STATE FOR EA/ANZ, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. UNITED STATES SALMON AND FOOD POISONING HAVE BEEN LINKED IN NEW ZEALAND MEDIA HEADLINES FOLLOWING FOUR CASES IN ENGLAND WHERE PEOPLE ATE A BRAND ALSO AVAILABLE IN NEW ZEALAND. THE CASES BROUGHT A WIDELY PUBLICISED WARNING FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ABOUT EATING SALMON FROM THE U.S.

2. JAPAN/NEW ZEALAND FISHING TALKS STRUGGLED ALONG IN WELLINGTON, WITH SMALL ENCLAVES CAUSED BY OVERLAPPING NEW ZEALAND ECONOMIC ZONES BEING ONE OF THE STUMBLING BLOCKS TO AGREEMENT. WHILE THE TALKS WERE GOING ON THE JAPANESE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR USHIBA, ARRIVED IN WELLINGTON, REPORTEDLY TO BRIEF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT ON GATT DISCUSSIONS AND THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME.

3. THE UNITED STATES REQUEST TO NEW ZEALAND TO TAKE MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WAS ALSO GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE. IT LED TO THE NATIONAL CHURCH COMMITTEE, WHICH HANDLES UNCLASSIFIED

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REFUGEES, CLAIMING THAT NEW ZEALAND COULD TAKE UP TO 50 REFUGEES PER MONTH, ALTHOUGH IT DID QUALIFY THIS STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT ENTRY SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO VIETNAM-ESE.

4. THE RULING NATIONAL PARTY HELD ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION IN WELLINGTON AND IN VIEW OF THE COMING ELECTIONS IT

PRESENTED A PICTURE OF SOLIDARITY. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SIGNS OF STRAIN IN PARTY RANKS, MAINLY OVER THE ABORTION ISSUE, AND AT LEAST THREE ELECTORATES HAVE PRODUCED A "NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE" CANDIDATE.

5. THE U.S.-ASEAN MEETING HAS BEEN IGNORED BY THE MEDIA, NOTHING HAVING BEEN CARRIED ON RADIO, TELEVISION OR NEWSPAPERS.

6. THE UNITED STATES DOLLAR'S FALL DREW EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE NEW ZEALAND "HERALD", WHICH SAID THAT IT COULD RAISE ANXIETIES ABOUT NEW ZEALAND'S EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. IT FELT THE CURE REQUIRED HELP FROM TRADE SURPLUS COUNTRIES, SUCH AS JAPAN AND GERMANY, AND ALSO A "DETERMINED ACTION, ESPECIALLY ON OIL IMPORTS" ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" EDITORIALISED ON THE FAILURE OF THE ANTARCTIC CONVENTION, CALLING FOR THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN PRESSING FOR CONVENTIONS TO COVER BOTH MARINE AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE ANTARCTIC. IT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ONCE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES TOOK PLACE, COMMERCIAL INTERESTS INVOLVED WOULD MAKE AGREEMENT ON A CONVENTION VERY MUCH HARDER.

7. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ECONOMICS PROFESSOR MELVILLE ULMER WAS PROGRAMMED IN CHRISTCHURCH, WELLINGTON AND AUCKLAND FROM JULY 24-28 AS AN AMERICAN PARTICIPANT.
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IN THE THREE CITIES, ULMER MET WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC PLANNERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HEADS OF UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC DEPARTMENTS, FACULTY AND STUDENTS. WHILE HIS PRESENTATION WAS INTERESTING TO LAY-MEN, ULMER WAS UNABLE TO DEPART FROM HIS THESIS AND ENGAGE IN MORE FREE-WHEELING DISCUSSIONS WITH PROFESSIONALS. HE DID, HOWEVER, ENABLE THE POST TO CONTACT IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (WELLINGTON 03958).

8. THREE MEMBERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND FIVE PERSONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WHO WERE PART OF A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PRACTICAL USE OF METHANOL BLENDED WITH GASOLINE AS A FUEL SOURCE, SAW THE MACNEIL/LEHRER REPORT VTR "GASOHOL" IN THE WELLINGTON AUDITORIUM. THEY ALL FOUND THE VTR EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE AND SAID IT CONFIRMED THEIR FINDINGS AND FIGURES. THEY DISAGREED WITH THE STATEMENTS OF THE CHEVRON REPRESENTATIVE IN THE PROGRAM.

9. THE MAYOR OF DUNEDIN, CLIFFORD SKEGGS, LEFT ON AUGUST 1 TO BEGIN HIS IV VISIT TO THE U.S. THE MAYOR WILL

BEGIN THE IV PORTION OF HIS VISIT AFTER ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, MARKING THE SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DUNEDIN AND THAT CITY. DURING A TWELVE-DAY PROGRAM, HE WILL VISIT BOSTON, WASHINGTON, LOS ANGELES AND HONOLULU.

10. DURING THE PAST WEEK, THE POST REQUESTED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEAD OF THE AUCKLAND CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND HIS URBAN DESIGN SPECIALIST WHO PLAN A

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-----065718 030258Z /14

P 030133Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 6018
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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SEPTEMBER VISIT TO THE U.S. ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO REQUESTED FOR THE MAYOR OF MANUKAU, A SATELLITE CITY OF AUCKLAND, WHO PLANS A VISIT TO THE U.S. IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.
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Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
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